

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

for

1962

J. DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District		112,315 acres.
Number of Parishes		50
Rateable Value 1/4/62		£251,979 0s. 0d.
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/63		£1,048 15s. 10d.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book		10,515
Estimated mid-year Home Population		29,940
Census Population 1961		29,327

The district, which is agricultural in character, extends from the parish of Gamlingay in the West to Carlton parish in the East, a distance of some 30 miles, and has a common boundary with parts of the counties of Huntingdon, Bedford, Hertford, Essex and Suffolk.

It is favourable to arable farming which varies with the location, from the market gardening district of the lower greensand outcrop in the North-West to the chalk marls around Melbourn and Meldreth which supports fruit growing, to the corn and sugar beet area of the chalk hills to the South and East.

Many of the industries in the area are connected either directly or indirectly with agriculture. There are exceptions however; Sawston has industries of a divergent nature and comparatively large numbers of workers are employed in leather and paper manufacture.

Birth Rate	17.8
(Corrected)	19.1
Death Rate	12.2
(Corrected)	10.4
Infant Mortality Rate	9.4
(Per thousand live births)	

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor C. Hagger

Vice-Chairman: Councillor E. Pepper

Councillors:

Andrews, H. B., M.B.E., J.P.	Lay, J. H., M.B.E., M.C.
Barnes, A.	Malthouse, H. F.
Bowen, Mrs. G.	May, S. W. H.
Bowers, C. H.	Morley, E. W.
Bullman, E. W., J.P.	Murfitt, F. W., J.P.
Chamberlain, J. J.	Nield, R. H.
Chambers, F.	Noble, J. W.
Clark, J. W.	Parkinson, Mrs. G. B.
Dyball, E. F.	Pearson, W. H.
Ellis, J. L. W.	Randall, P., J.P.
Fordham, G. R. B., J.P.	Rogers, Mrs. H.
Gray, Miss L. M.	Saggers, A. C.
Greenwood, C. O.	Taylor, S. A., J.P.
Horsford, F. W.	Vinter, Mrs. M. M. K.
Jackson, R. C.	Wiseman, E. J.

STAFF

<i>Medical Officer of Health:</i>	J. Drummond, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Public Health Inspector:</i>	R. J. Hoyle, M.R.S.H.
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	P. Cocks, M.R.S.H.
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	P. G. Allston, M.R.S.H.
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	A. Morgan (Appointed in July).
<i>Clerk:</i>	Miss C. M. Gammon.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1962, prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2/1963, dated 28th March, 1963.

Vital Statistics

During the year the estimated population remained virtually unchanged in spite of the large number of houses built in the area during the year. The birth rate and death rate also showed only slight changes of no significance, but it is most satisfying to record that the infant mortality rate has fallen from the abnormally high figure of 28.4 in 1961 to the abnormally low one of 9.4 in 1962. This low rate brings the high figure of the previous year into perspective as a statistical variation which is likely to occur because of the small numbers involved in calculating the rate.

Infectious Diseases

The incidence of reported infectious disease fell greatly with the recession of the 1961 measles epidemic, and there is little which need excite any comment. It is gratifying to be able to report, however, that once again no cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year and that the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register continue to fall steadily.

Sanitary Circumstances

During the year the council built some 67 houses, of which 45 were bungalows. The emphasis continued to be laid on making provision for the aged and indeed, plans were made to supplement the two very successful units of special housing for old people at Linton and Sawston by similar developments at Meldreth and Balsham.

That housing continues to be one of the major problems with which the council has to contend is shown by the fact that over 900 applicants are at present on the waiting list. It is hard to suggest how much the large number of houses being privately built—224 were completed last year—affect the council waiting list as many of the new houses are occupied by people moving into the area, and although some council house tenants move into privately owned houses the number is not large.

The high rate of progress in the sewerage of the villages was maintained during the year. The schemes for Sawston, Pampisford and Litlington were under construction and it is expected that work will start on the villages of Bassingbourn, Kneesworth and Balsham during 1963. It will not be many years now before the vast majority of people in the district will be able to enjoy a standard of amenity comparable to that which the townsman expects as a right.

Another step in this direction was the agreement of the council to give five parishes—covering one-third of the houses in the district—a weekly refuse collection. Some of the older generation from the more landward points of the district still seem to think of this as rather much of a luxury service and that individual householders should burn as much refuse as possible. In the modern estates, however, where gardens are small and fires and stoves are not constructed to consume rubbish, such a proposition would create an intolerable nuisance and be quite unacceptable to the householders.

Although the council cannot but regret having lost control of their water undertaking, we must surely feel some satisfaction in that we are handing over a first-class system on which no effort has been spared to enable it to meet ever-rising demands.

Of even greater interest, however, has been the rising tide of controversy over the proposition to raise the fluoride level in the public water supply to the optimum level of one part per million, in order to reduce the appalling incidence of dental decay in the rising generation.

This proposition, which has received the blessing of the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organisation and indeed, every responsible and major body representing medical and public Health opinion in the world, has proved itself to be a source of considerable controversy ably manoeuvred by a small but very active and dedicated opposition. This opposition by the use of first-class propaganda techniques such as quotations out of context, presenting unsupported opinions as authoritative statements, distributing vast quantities of literature, has managed to play on the primitive fears of many people and to create an atmosphere of doubt and confusion which does not, in fact, exist in the minds of the responsible scientists who have studied the subject in any detail.

As this report will be prepared after I have left the service of the council and will be presented by my successor, Dr. Sylvester, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation of the loyalty and help that I have always received from Mr. Hoyle and all the members of the public health department throughout my years with the council.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
JAMES DRUMMOND.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations)

LIVE BIRTHS							Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	263	244	507
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	11	27
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	279	255	534
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.8
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.07)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19.1
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.0
STILL BIRTHS							Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.6
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.1
DEATHS							Male	Female	Total
	..	..	..	..	..	..	181	184	365
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.2
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.85)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.4
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.9
INFANT MORTALITY. (Deaths of infants under one year of age.)							Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	3(2)	1(1)	4(3)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	1(1)	—	1(1)
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	4(3)	1(1)	5(4)
(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown brackets.)									
Infant mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.4
Infant mortality rate. (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21.4
Neonatal mortality rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.5
Early neonatal mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.6
Perinatal mortality rate. (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.2
Legitimate infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.9
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.1 %
Maternal deaths (deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Deaths from influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1950	1961	1962
*Birth Rate	15.0	18.8	15.4	16.3	16.8	18.0	18.0	18.1	19.9	16.5	17.8
*Death Rate	11.6	11.5	12.6	11.8	12.7	11.3	11.4	12.0	11.6	11.8	12.2
Infant Mortality Rate	5.1	10.0	30.5	19.8	12.8	21.7	19.5	9.8	12.3	28.4	9.4
	(2)	(5)	(13)	(9)	(6)	(11)	(10)	(5)	(7)	(14)	(5)

* The above rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	—	4
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	—	5
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	6	17
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	15	40
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	34	75
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89	125	214
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	181	184	365

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

“ The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951 ” provided for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Public Health Inspectors

Mr. R. J. Hoyle continues as Senior Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Cocks, Mr. Allston and Mr. Morgan who was appointed in July.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water supplies, and all necessary examination in cases of infectious disease.

Hospitals

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Cambridge City Isolation Hospital. The old Poor Law Institution at Linton is now shared between the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board and the Cambridgeshire County Council; the former having the use of eighty beds for the chronic sick, the latter 95 beds for use under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASE) REGULATIONS 1953

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of ‘ Food Poisoning ’ (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include ‘ carriers ’ of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1962
NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1962

Age in years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infection	Totals
			Paralytic	Non-Paralytic				
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
1 year—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	4
2 years—	1	—	—	—	8	—	—	9
3 years—	3	—	—	—	8	1	—	12
4 years—	4	—	—	—	11	—	—	15
5—9 years	11	—	—	—	48	—	—	59
10—14 years	1	—	—	—	7	—	—	8
15—24 years	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	5
25 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	22	—	—	—	92	2	—	116
1961 Totals	18	110	—	—	452	4	—	584

Age in years	Acute Pneumonia	Acute Encephalitis	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	1	—	—	—	—	1
15—44 years	—	1	1	6	1	9
45—64 years	4	—	—	—	—	4
65 and over	1	—	1	1	—	3
Totals	6	1	2	7	1	17
1961 Totals	4	—	1	5	2	12

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 3 cases were notified for the first time. 2 respiratory cases previously notified elsewhere were transferred to the district. On balance at the end of the year there were 9 fewer cases on the register.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1962

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year	31	14	1	4	32	18
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations	2	1	—	—	2	1
3. Cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations:—						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	2	—	—	—	2	—
(b) From Death Returns	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	6	8	—	—	6	8
6. Number of cases remaining on Register at end of year	29	7	1	4	30	11

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.62

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
0—15	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
15—25	3	—	2	2	5	2	7
25—35	7	—	1	—	8	—	8
35—45	4	—	3	1	7	1	8
45—55	6	1	—	—	6	1	7
55—65	6	—	1	—	7	—	7
65 and over	2	—	—	1	2	1	3
TOTALS	29	1	7	4	36	5	41

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47

No action was necessary during the year under this section.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 30

One burial was effected under the provisions of this section.

REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

Summary of Visits and Inspections recorded during the year:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,266
Complaints Investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	205
General re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	193
Housing :										
General Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	249
Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	729
Infectious Diseases :										
General Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	132
Number of Premises Disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Verminous Premises and Persons:										
Premises Disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Water Supply:										
Inspections and Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76
Visits re. Water Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	179
Visits re. Chlorination Tests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Milk and Dairies	..	..	..							
Inspections of Dairies and Milk Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Milk Distributors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Visits re. Milk Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Food and Drugs Act:										
Inspection of Food	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	682
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Ice-Cream premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Other Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Food Conveying Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Shops Act Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Factories Act:										
Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Atmospheric Pollution	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Noise Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Pet Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	339
Public Cleansing, including Depot Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
Drainage, including inspections for ' lateral ' connection to new sewers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,677
Swimming Pool Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sewage Disposal, including Surveys for Parish Sewerage Schemes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	294
Litter Baskets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Petroleum Storage Regulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Schools Visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	215

HOUSING

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
Houses rendered reasonably fit after informal action	152

Proceedings under Housing Act 1957

Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.. .. .	12
Houses demolished due to formal action:	
(a) By owners	19
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
Houses demolished as a result of informal action	4
Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Section 17)	12
Undertakings in respect of houses represented as Unfit (Section 16):	
(a) Undertakings given by owners to make fit	Nil
(b) Undertakings given by owners not to use for human habitation	13
Buildings in respect of part of which Closing Orders were made (Section 18)	Nil
Houses made fit and Closing Orders or Undertakings cancelled	2
New cases of overcrowding	2
Overcrowding cases abated	1

Housing Progress during the year ending 31.3.63

Bungalows erected by the Council	45
Houses erected by the Council.. .. .	22
Dwellings erected by private enterprise	224
Total number of dwellings erected by the Council since 1945	1869

For the third year in succession the Architect reports that more Council bungalows than houses have been erected and that the demand for this type of dwelling has not yet been satisfied. The two groups of warden controlled old persons bungalows fulfil a need to such an extent that similar projects are envisaged at Meldreth and Balsham.

The amount of private building in the district is not reflected by any lack of applicants for Council dwellings and the total number of applicants stands at 946.

The records show that the public health department has been concerned with the repair and improvement to 159 dwellings and in 8 cases formal notices under the Public Health Acts were served. Thirty-seven unfit dwellings have been closed by formal action and a further four informally.

Financial grants to improve and bring to a modern standard of amenity privately owned cottages and houses of the older type have been approved in 59 cases, this being 64% of the previous year's figure.

Two families still remain in ex armed Forces hutments.

Moveable Dwellings

Advice has been given and tentative enquiries received for the operating of caravan sites housing numbers greater than the more usual 3 or 6 vans, but none have materialised. An old established site and one of the largest, accommodating 24 vans, is in course of being brought into line with the requirements of the Act. Generally the Caravan Site and Control of Development Act is having the effect of reducing the number of caravans on each site as site operators prefer to restrict expenditure to a minimum. Then again, unless Planning permission is granted to cover a reasonable period site operators may not see a return on finance expended in complying with the required licence conditions.

The majority of the sites now comply with the new licence conditions and 339 visits are recorded in this connexion.

The register shows a total of 105 licensed sites covering 172 caravans.

WATER SUPPLIES

Works for improving water supplies to some of the peripheral parishes in the Eastern Area of the district are continuing but were not completed before the transfer of the Council's water undertaking to the Cambridge Water Company which took effect on 1st April, 1963.

Examination of private supplies in the central area parishes accounted for the large proportion of unfit supplies found, and now that mains water has been provided to these parishes owners of properties with unfit supplies are being required to lay on a wholesome water supply from the mains.

Unsatisfactory main water supplies were of minor character resulting usually from main disturbances and in two instances from private storage tanks inadequately protected against birds.

The Council considered the addition of fluoride to the public piped water supplies throughout the district. The addition being to bring the present fluoride content to 1 p.p.m. Samples showed between 0.1 and 0.15 p.p.m. of fluoride already existing in the water. After due consideration the Council decided against the addition of fluorides.

Water pumped from the Council's boreholes is of good quality both chemically and bacteriologically, although the supply from Croydon borehole contains a trace of iron which is removed prior to distribution.

RESULTS OF WATER SUPPLY SAMPLES

Type of Supply	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Public Piped supplies	114	7
Private supplies	19	62

SWIMMING BATHS

The public health department does not condone the use of rivers in the rural district for swimming purposes and advocates the installation of school swimming pools where children can be taught under proper guidance and without public health risk. At the time of reporting, four schools in the area now have swimming pools and close checks on filtration and chlorination treatment show that the pools are well managed.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

Particulars of Population and Numbers of Dwelling Houses supplied from Public Water Mains:—

Parish	Acreage	Pop- ulation Census 1951	Number of dwellings (Rate Books) as at 31/3/63	Number of dwellings supplied as at 31/3/63	No. of dwellings supplied from Coun- cilst'd pipes	Source of Water Supply and quantity pumped and purchased 31/3/63
Sawston	1,898	2,133	1,157	1,139	4	Sawston bore (Chalk water) gallons per year. 48,345,000
Balsham	4,550	662	265	255	2	Linton bore (Chalk water) 91,578,000 gallons per year.
Bartlow	377	73	27	27		
Carlton	2,415	266	55	52		
Castle Camps ..	3,184	509	196	193		
Great Abington	1,588	503	213	209		
Hildersham ..	1,511	148	69	62		
Horseheath ..	1,922	328	141	136		
Linton	3,817	1,608	702	687		
Little Abington ..	1,309	280	138	133		
Shudy Camps ..	2,362	240	92	90		
Weston Colville ..	3,235	334	132	113		
West Wickham ..	2,931	327	122	116	1	
West Wratting ..	3,543	424	149	140		
Abington Pigotts	1,237	142	45	45		Croydon bore (Lower greensand water) and Dotterel bore (Chalk water) 252,685,000 gallons per year.
Arrington ..	1,407	648	127	125		
Babraham ..	2,387	226	111	2		
Barrington ..	2,282	497	222	202		
Bassingbourn ..	3,204	2,554	683 (184)	606		
Croydon ..	2,734	223	79	76		
Duxford ..	3,239	1,469	434	365		
Fowlmere ..	2,272	769	214	181		
Foxton ..	1,752	567	246	212		
Gamlingay ..	4,460	1,575	598	551		
Guilden Morden	2,599	552	227	209		
Hatley ..	2,200	150	57	54		
Hinxton ..	1,564	274	102	79		
Ickleton ..	2,700	613	229	148		
Kneesworth ..	879	133	35	19		
Litlington ..	2,172	778	247	232		
Little Gransden	1,920	280	98	98		
Longstowe ..	1,544	240	67	62		
Melbourn ..	4,480	1,408	713	640		
Meldreth ..	2,513	654	348	331		
Orwell ..	2,083	525	231	228		
Pampisford ..	1,607	340	111	81		
Shepreth ..	1,318	438	183	158		
Shingay cum Wendy	1,791	119	41	41		
Steeple Morden	3,846	642	251	213		
Tadlow ..	1,743	107	34	31		
Thriplow ..	2,501	386	262 (110)	89		
Whaddon ..	1,515	196	144 (58)	142		
Wimpole ..	2,468	239	62	51		
Whittlesford ..	1,976	809	405 (31)	263		
Great Eversden ..	1,400	175	61	57		Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board (Lower greensand water) 7,528,000 gallons per year.
Kingston ..	1,907	158	55	54		
Little Eversden	790	236	123	117		
Great Chishill ..	2,542	332	119	118		Saffron Walden R.D.C. (Chalk water) 4,759,000 gallons per year.
Heydon ..	1,425	151	63	61		
Little Chishill ..	1,216	82	30	19		

Figures in brackets are included in the main figure and represent R.A.F. dwellings.

REPRESENTATIVES RESULTS OF WATER ANALYSES FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Examination	Linton Bore. Chalk Water	Sawston Bore. Chalk Water	Croydon Bore. Lower Greensand Water (after iron removal)	Fowlmere Dottrell Hall Bore. Chalk Water	Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board. Lower Greensand Water (after iron removal)	Saffron Walden R.D.C. Chalk Water	Lee Valley Water Co. Chalk Water
Physical Characteristics ..	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Reaction (pH value)	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.3
Parts per 100,000							
Chloride.	1.95	2.4	3.1	2.30	6.6	1.75	2.2
Ammonia (Free & Saline) ..	absent	0.0072	0.0620	absent	0.0530	absent	absent
Ammonia (Albuminoid) ..	0.0030	0.0038	0.0030	0.0396	0.0018	0.0010	0.0010
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C	0.0432	0.0461	0.0297	0.0333	0.0217	0.0360	0.0198
Nitrates (Expressed as Nitrogen)	0.85	0.75	absent	0.85	absent	0.60	0.50
Nitrites]	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Total Hardness	24.8	28.2	18.0	23.8	23.7	25.9	28.2
Microscopial Examination of deposit	none	none	none	none	none	none	none
Bacteriological Examination							
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Number of micro-organisms per ml at 37°C	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml at 21°C	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

It is anticipated that the Sawston/Pampisford sewerage scheme will be in operation by July 1963. The severe winter was a handicap to the earlier completion of the project.

Sewering of Litlington Parish was commenced and modifications to the existing ex Forces sewage works, which will now treat the village sewage, are at present in hand.

At the time of reporting the Bassingbourn/Kneesworth sewerage scheme has been started and this will drain to the R.A.F. Sewage works which have been acquired and which will be suitably enlarged to cope with both parishes plus the existing R.A.F. establishment at Bassingbourn.

The parish of Balsham is next in line for sewerage and work should be commenced during 1963.

It goes without saying that such strides in parish sewerage schemes is reflected on the amount of work and time spent by the public health inspectors in giving practical advice to property owners, supervising drainage connexions, agreeing with the sewerage contractors as to the positioning of individual sewer laterals, which are laid free by the Council ready for connexion of private drains from premises, and in carrying out sanitary surveys in parishes for subsequent submission of details to the Ministry when seeking further approvals for parish schemes. Figures show that visits in connexion with drainage and sewerage have increased by nearly 600 to a total of 1,971.

The department also supervises and tests new drainage work in connexion with existing properties, other than Council houses, and attends to complaints.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The department was not able to inaugurate the weekly collection of refuse as agreed by the Council during the year as vehicle repairs and repainting took longer than estimated. However, early 1963 saw the commencement of a weekly collection of refuse in five parishes representing over one third of the premises in the rural district. The remaining area has a fortnightly collection.

The disposable paper sack method of refuse collection is to be tried out at two groups of old person warden controlled bungalows.

The effective and economic disposal of refuse is part and parcel of the overall service, but one in which the public has possibly no first hand knowledge and is not individually interested. Nevertheless improvements to the service should not only extend to frequency and methods of collection but also to disposal. Whilst controlled tipping within the terms of the Ministry's memorandum forms a satisfactory means of disposal depending on location, strict adherence would considerably increase cost, especially where covering material for tips is not readily available and involves purchase and transport.

The time is approaching when other methods of disposal may commend themselves by way of incineration, pulverisation and composting. Whether the cost of capital works involved in these means of disposal for a rural area are warranted, need careful assessment.

Collection and disposal statistics for year ending 31/3/63

Estimated number of clearances from properties	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	277,000
Number of loads	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,437
Estimated tonnage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,887
Total mileage travelled..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39,589

Litter Bins

Although parish councils may now provide litter bins in their areas the district Council are continuing to position and erect them if requested and a total of 80 bins are now in use.

Their frequent emptying is accomplished at the same time as the parish refuse collection.

Cesspool Emptying Service

One vehicle manned by a driver and an operator has been kept extremely busy during the year and from the accompanying summary of the work done it will be seen that 1604 vehicle loads have been removed from over 1100 cesspools or other sewage tanks. Disposal of the effluent is accomplished either in sludge lagoons at sewage works, on arable land or in some refuse tips where it can be covered immediately with refuse. Generally the time lag between the request for emptying and its execution has been about 2 weeks and in this the service can be criticised. However, having considered all aspects the Council has agreed to the purchase of an additional vehicle.

The present charges for the service are as follows:

Private properties 35/- per first load, with subsequent loads at 15/-.

Business premises £2 per first load, with subsequent loads at £1.

The following summarises the year's works :

Private Work		Council Work		Total Mileage
Cesspools	Loads	Cesspools	Loads	
536	619	604	990	15,608

Nightsoil Collection

Only part of one parish has a collection of night soil and the charge is levied as a parish rate. A private firm cater for individual emptyings in several villages.

PEST DESTRUCTION

As in previous years rat destruction has been confined to work carried out on Council's refuse tips and sewage works, and private householders have been expected to destroy rats on their own premises without assistance from the local authority. However, the Council appointed a rat catcher and early in 1963 a free service of rat destruction for private householders was started.

Measures against winged insects on the Council's refuse tips are a matter of routine and only by continual treatment can the tips be kept comparatively free.

Four private dwellings have been treated for flea infestation.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOOD POISONING

Sporadic cases of bacterial food poisoning have occurred, but results of investigations as to the source of the outbreaks have been inconclusive. The 132 visits recorded by the public health inspectors refer mainly to other infectious diseases, scarlet fever being the foremost.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Three applications have been dealt with in connexion with prior approval of furnace installations, and the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service reported favourably on them. A complaint of excessive smoke from a factory was investigated and smoke observations were taken over a period of time without a contravention of the Act being found.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Fourteen visits are recorded under this heading and result from investigation of complaints. A noise nuisance arising from factory machinery was abated and remedial measures are being pursued at a further factory.

The department has been consulted on the prevention of noise in connexion with certain new establishments and it would seem that it is at that stage that basic measures can be adopted to obviate excessive noise.

During the year the public health inspectors attended a short course on measures designed to reduce and control noise.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES AND EXAMINATION OF FOOD

Food Shops, Restaurants, Factory Canteens

The number and type of food premises in the district are as follows:

Grocery and General	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
Butchery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Bakery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Sweets and Confectionery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Public House and Hotels	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100
Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Factory and Workplace Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Fried and Wet Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
School Meals Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Hospitals and Nursing Homes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Clubs and Associations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21

Whilst it has not been possible to visit all the above premises during the year the records show 185 visits were made for inspection purposes under Food Hygiene control. The general level of cleanliness of premises and personnel was good, although improvement have been required at 25 premises. One recently established cafe was found to be operating from such insanitary premises that the occupier was requested to close the business pending general improvements. The premises were closed within 24 hours and have not been reopened.

There are 14 bakehouses on register all of which are small in character and fairly well managed. Structural works and redecoration has been effected at two premises.

Twenty-six visits have been made to public houses and six premises have been improved. The tendency by the brewers to close non-profit drinking houses continues and in the past 7 years the number of licensed premises has been reduced by 50.

There are numerous mobile vehicles purveying food throughout the district and the department has been actively concerned with improving standards. Occupiers attention has been drawn to the requirements of the Regulations and in specific instances to cleanliness of utensils, of personal clothing and protection of foodstuffs from contamination etc. Several vehicles failed to display the name and address of the vendor.

Milk Supply

Duties in connexion with the production, processing and distribution of milk are carried out in part by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the county Council as a food and drug authority and by the district Council. The supervision and licensing of distributors, the registration of dairies and their hygienic condition are in general the main concern of the district Council together with the authority to stop a milk supply or divert for heat treatment that which may be harmful by reason of contamination or infection. One Diversion Order, requiring milk to be heat treated, is still in force. Milk samples from the particular herd continue to show evidence of infection with *Brucella abortus* the causative agent of undulant fever in man.

A complaint of tainted milk supplies to a school was investigated and subsequently the whole supply was discarded. The public analyst eventually reported the contaminant as being a chlorine compound.

There are two registered dairies and nine licensed distributors in the district.

Ice Cream

A further five premises have been registered for the retail sale of this product which brings the total number of premises to 138. No ice cream is manufactured in the area, but the growth of the mobile ice cream vendor, several of whom sell "soft" ice cream is being carefully watched. This ready mixed product is usually one of three types which only requires freezing or possibly the admixture of water prior to freezing. The mixture is fed into the freezer on the vehicle as and when required. It is essential that the freezing plant should be stripped and thoroughly cleansed and sterilised at the end of each day's work. Advice on this aspect has been given to several purveyors. Fourteen ice cream samples have been submitted to the requisite test for bacteriological purity and were found to be satisfactory.

No contravention of the Regulations have been found at retailers premises during the year.

Food Inspection

Apart from food inspection at the slaughterhouses 18 visits in connexion with suspect food have been made. A warning was given to a shop keeper for contravening the Food and Drugs Act due to the sale of meat pies infected with mould growth. Other foods found to be unfit were mainly canned foods to which the departments attention had been called.

Meat Inspection—Slaughter of Animals

The following table sets out the year's kill at the three privately owned slaughterhouses, the number of carcasses inspected and the amount of meat and offals rejected as unfit.

The kill is up by some 15,131 carcasses over the previous year making a total of 62,989 of which 43,865 carcasses were examined.

**TOTALS OF MEAT INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN THE THREE PRIVATELY OWNED
SLAUGHTERHOUSES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1962**

(The figures in brackets are the annual figures for the year 1961)

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1,558	24	16	6,391	54,909	—
Number inspected 70%	1,368	21	12	5,423	37,041	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	1	1	37	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	352	5	—	70	4,221	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	25.8% (20.5%)	23.8% (20.5%)	8.3% —	1.33% (.46%)	15.5% (9.2%)	— —
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	—	—	—	861	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	1.02% —	— —	— —	— —	2.3% (2.5%)	— —
CYSTICEROSIS						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	16 (8)	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	16 (8)	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Generalised and totally con- demned	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
NUMBER OF ORGANS OR PARTS CONDEMNED—ALL DISEASES*						
Heads	25	—	—	—	863	—
Lungs	16	—	—	1	2,749	—
Hearts	3	1	—	—	515	—
Livers	302	2	—	69	1,661	—
Speens	1	—	—	—	1	—
Diaphragms	5	—	—	—	123	—
Kidneys	2	—	—	—	102	—
Stomachs	—	—	—	—	1	—
Mesenteries	—	—	—	—	6	—
Other parts	153 lbs.	238 lbs.	—	—	1942 lbs.	—

*These figures do not include instances where whole carcasses and all organs were condemned.

Throughout the month of October a 100% examination of all animals slaughtered was made, but due to several factors, not the least of which was the times of slaughtering, it could not be maintained. As usual the staff are engaged on meat inspection during weekends.

The percentage of cattle found to be affected with tuberculosis rose rather sharply towards the end of the year due to the import for slaughter of tuberculin tested reactors under licence from Southern Ireland. As from 7.1.63 imported Irish non-attested cattle (including once and twice tested) will be relegated for slaughter and licensed direct to a slaughterhouse. The increase in non-tubercular disease in cattle is mainly due to localised liver infections. Tuberculosis in pigs is slightly reduced, but the increase in non-tubercular disease is mainly attributed to localised lung conditions.

The disposal of rejected meat, 17½ tons, did not present any difficulty and the Meat Staining and Sterilization Regulations were rigorously applied.

Carcases found to be affected to some degree with *cysticercus bovis* are subjected to deep freezing before being released for human consumption. The affected portions only are rejected as unfit.

The department is indebted to the Veterinary Investigation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and also to the Public Health Laboratory Service in connexion with the bacteriological and histological examination of pathological specimens.

Two of the three slaughterhouses closed down at the year's end as they did not comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations which by Order now apply throughout the rural district, but these slaughterhouses are being replaced by new premises which are at present under construction.

The public health inspectors have made a total of 682 visits to slaughterhouses for meat inspection purposes.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Works and inspections carried out under the Act are restricted to the enforcement of the provisions relating to sanitary accommodation only, in 90% of the factories on register, but other matters relating to statutory nuisances, food hygiene, atmospheric pollution and noise control etc., which may arise, come within the pervue of the public health inspector and are mentioned elsewhere in this report.

Complaints have arisen due to flue discharges from factories under the control of the Alkali Works Inspectorate of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and these have been referred to that Authority.

No new certificates have been issued approving the use of private water supplies.

Factory occupiers have made their usual returns of the number of Outworkers employed and the total figure stands at 37. No contraventions relating to outworkers have been noted.

The following summarises the work and inspections under the Act:—

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	10	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	84	42	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	11	1	1	—
TOTAL	105	44	4	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	1	—	—
TOTAL	4	4	1	1	—

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Four existing factories fall within this category and the byelaws made in 1961 under section 108, Public Health Act 1936 apply to such premises. Visits during the year were made as a matter of routine.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1958

Licences in force number 20, none of which permit the slaughter of horses. Three 'beginners' licences have been issued subject to the restriction that the recipient must slaughter animals only under the supervision of a fully licensed slaughterman.

Slaughtering at the three privately owned slaughterhouses in the district is accomplished by captive bolt pistol or electrolethal.

No contraventions of the Act have been reported.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

Seven new petroleum storage installations consisting of underground tanks have been tested and licensed. A further installation was approved for the storage of petroleum in cans. No routine testing of existing tanks has been possible.

The register lists a total of 164 storage installations in the district and records 33 visits to premises.

